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14 - 26 May 1953

During this period the weather was characterized by rapid and pronounced warming and abundant rainfalls.

Diurnal temperatures were largely above average. On 13 May, during the noon hours, the temperature was 12-16 degrees. By the 16th, however, noon temperature had risen to 25 degrees in several areas. The warming continued uninterrupted and temperatures reached 29-30 degrees on the 24th and 30-32 degrees on the 25th.

Nocturnal cooling was pronounced at the beginning of this 2-week period, but later the nights became milder. Measured at a height of 1½-2 meters from the ground, the temperature dropped to 1-4 degrees between the 13th and 15th. Subsequently, paralleling the diurnal warming, the nights became milder, with the thermometer showing 15-18 degrees around midnight after the 24th.

The soil-surface temperature dropped to 1-2 degrees below zero in the northern megyek on the 14th and 15th. Later, however, the air warmed to above 10 degrees along the soil surface.

Precipitation fell on several days. On the 13th, the nationwide rains continued and rain later fell in most areas every day. The rains fell largely in the form of storms and the amount therefore varied considerably from place to place. On several days, large areas received 10-20 millimeters of precipitation. The total amount of rainfall between 1 and 26 May exceeded 50-70 millimeters in large areas throughout the nation. Kaposvar reported 81 millimeters; Nyirlugos, 78; Veszprem, 75; Somogyszob, 68; Nagykanizsa, 67; Josvafo, 65; Mohacs and Pecs, 61; and Kiralyret and Hortobagy, 60 millimeters. As a result, total precipitation during 1 - 26 May was above average for the entire month in most parts of Hungary.

The abundant rainfall and the warm temperature were extremely beneficial to the development of all plants.(2)

27 May - 10 June 1953

This 2-week period was extremely rainy and, in general, unseasonably cold.

Diurnal temperatures were variable and largely low. Following the 30- to 32-degrees heat on 25 May, cool air currents, accompanied by abundant rains, lowered the diurnal temperatures to 13-15 degrees during the last days of the month. The warming during the first week of June did not exceed 17-20 degrees and attained 24-25 degrees, the long-range average for the period, only after the 7th. On the 8th, however, the thermometer rose to 27-30 degrees.

Nocturnal temperatures also showed considerable variations. Following the mild nights around 25 May, nocturnal temperatures gradually declined, with the minima between 7 and 10 degrees by the end of the month. During the first days of June, nocturnal cooling continued. After the 6th, however, the nights became increasingly milder, and the thermometer stood at 17-20 degrees in the early morning hours of the 9th.

Precipitation was extremely plentiful. The rain fell usually in the form of storms, and, accordingly, its geographic distribution was uneven. The rainfall between 27 May and 10 June exceeded 50 millimeters practically everywhere, and even 100 millimeters in large areas of the Great Plain. In certain storm centers it was in excess of 150 millimeters. In general, precipitation during the 2 weeks under review exceeded the long-range average for the entire month of June in most parts of the country.

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Specifically, countrywide rain set in on 27 May, followed by daily rains in various areas. During the 14-day period, the rain was countrywide on 8 days, and over half of the country received rain on 4 days. The precipitation was the heaviest on 9 June, when it amounted to 50-80 millimeters in many parts of the country.

The abundant rains were beneficial not only to the root and forage crops, but in part also to the cereals. From now on, however, warm and dry weather is desirable.(3)

[A map showing the distribution of precipitation during the period 27 May - 9 June is appended.]

11 June - 1 July 1953

The cool and rainy weather continued at the beginning of this period, but later gave way to increasingly warm and sultry days. Precipitation was considerably less than during the preceding 2 weeks.

Diurnal temperatures were, at first, lower than average, but later rose. Between 11 and 14 June, the air warmed in large areas to only 20-24 degrees. After the 14th, however, diurnal temperatures throughout the nation exceeded 25 degrees, the long-range average for the period. On the 21st, the temperature rose to 20 degrees in the southern parts of the Danube Tisza Basin, and during the last days of the month the thermometer stood at 25-28 degrees practically everywhere.

The nights were generally mild. At a height of 1½-2 meters, nocturnal temperatures declined to as low as 10-14 degrees in a few areas, but generally ranged between 15 and 18 degrees. During the last 7 nights, the minima were as high as 19-20 degrees in certain localities. Along the soil surface, the lowest temperatures, which occurred only in a few localities, were 9-10 degrees.

Precipitation was extremely abundant in the first half of June, but only moderate in the second half. The geographic distribution of precipitation was very uneven, because the rains fell mostly in the form of storms. Total precipitation during the entire month of June was under 60 millimeters only in a few Trans-Danubian localities and exceeded 100 millimeters in practically all regions, with 150-200 millimeters reported from several areas throughout the nation. Large areas received double the long-range average, with the heaviest precipitation falling in the Great Plain.

Most of the precipitation fell in the first half of June. From the 14th to the 21st, the weather turned generally dry. After the 22d, the rains were again heavy. It rained everywhere on the 25th and 29th and half of the nation received some rain on 5 days.

The rain fell mostly in the form of storms which lasted only a few hours. Precipitation during the rainy days ranged from 50 to 100 millimeters, that is, well over the average for the entire month. The downpours were frequently followed by hail.

The heavy rains caused extensive damage to the crops, as well as soil erosion. The dry and warm weather which prevailed in the second half of June was beneficial to the ripening and harvesting of cereals.(4)

[A map showing the distribution of precipitation in June is appended.]

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2 - 31 July 1953

Higher than average temperatures predominated during most of July. Precipitation was generally less than average.

With the exception of a few days, diurnal temperatures were above 25 degrees, and temperatures of 30-33 degrees were common everywhere throughout the month. The warmest day of the month was the 27th, when the thermometer stood at 31-34 degrees, that is, only slightly below the 35-38 degrees often experienced in July. During the last days of the month, the temperatures dropped by 8-10 degrees.

The nights were, as a rule, unusually warm. At a height of 1½-2 meters from the ground, the thermometer seldom stood below 9-10 degrees in the western parts of Trans-Danubia. The minima usually ranged from 15 to 18 degrees, and, in several areas, nocturnal temperatures were as high as 20-21 degrees.

Precipitation was less than in June and generally amounted to 50-100 millimeters, although some localities received as much as 150 millimeters. The driest regions were the northeastern part of Trans-Danubia and the southern part of the Danube Tisza Basin. In the latter, the rainfall was under 40 millimeters. Precipitation was, however, abundant in 40 percent of the total area of the nation, including the western and southeastern parts of Trans-Danubia, the Northern Mountain Region, and the Great Plain.

Most of the rain fell during the first half of the month. In this period, the rains were nationwide on 4 days (5, 10, 11, and 13 July) and over half of the country received rain on four other days. In the second half of the month, nationwide rain fell on 3 days (19th, 29th, and 30th) and there was practically no precipitation on 10 days.

The rain fell largely in storms. Hail was reported in numerous smaller areas on several days, including the 3d, 4th, 5th, 10th, 14th, 19th, and 30th. However, it failed to cause serious damage.

The extremely abundant rains which fell in June permitted the soils to store a large amount of moisture. For this reason, the lack of adequate precipitation in certain areas during July was not injurious to the crops. The downpours, usually lasting only for a short time, failed to handicap harvesting the threshing even in areas where precipitation was the heaviest. The warm and sunny weather was beneficial to the development of good quality and the ripening of cereals.(5)

[A map showing the distribution of precipitation in July is appended.]

SOURCES

1. Magyar Mezogazdasag, Vol VIII, No 10, 16 May 53
2. Ibid., No 11, 1 Jun 53
3. Ibid., No 12, 16 Jun 53
4. Ibid., No 13-14, 10 Jul 53
5. Ibid., No 15-16, 10 Aug 53

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Figure 1. Distribution of Precipitation,
27 May - 9 June

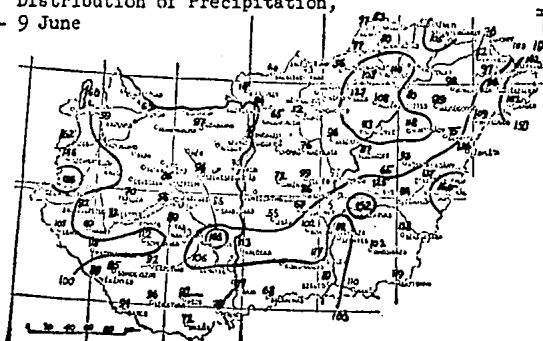


Figure 2. Distribution of Precipitation, June

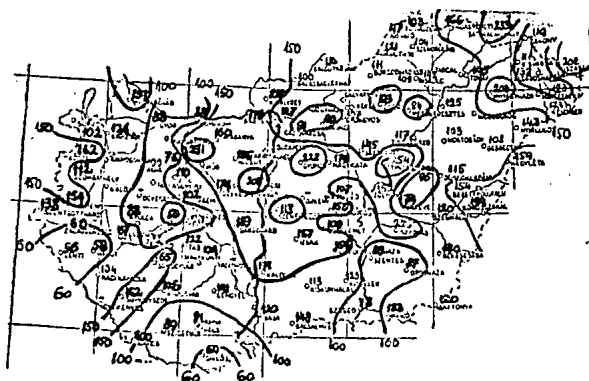
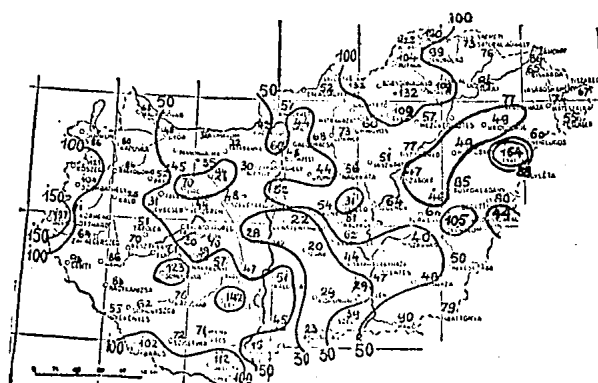


Figure 3. Distribution of Precipitation, July



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